

AR103C

Declaration of Mrs. Blanca Gerchunoff re: Disappearance of son, Dr. Maximo Eduardo Jaroslavsky - January 12, 1978.

Mrs. Blanca Gerchunoff declares that her son, Dr. Maximo Edmundo Jaroslavsky, * (Mrs. Gerchunoff is divorced), Argentine nationality, born September 7, 1938, at Buenos Aires, disappeared at 9 p.m. the evening of November 19, 1975 in the city of Tucuman when going by car to visit a patient in the heart clinic that he founded and directed in that city. Neither the doctor nor his car has been seen since that time.

Dr. Jaroslavsky's relative have reason to believe, as will be described below, that he was taken by members of the Argentine military and has been held by them since his disappearance.

Mrs. Imelda Nader Jaroslavsky is the doctor's wife and there are two sons, Andres, 7, and Pablo, 5.

Immediately after the doctor's disappearance, relatives intervened with the Military Governor of Tucuman, General Adolfo Videla. He denied at that time that Dr. Jaroslavsky was being held by the military. Intervention with the General also was made by the Medical College of Tucuman, with the same result. The Tucuman doctors organized a strike on behalf of Dr. Jaroslavsky, first refusing all night work for a month and then going on a complete 24-hour strike; and the relatives and medical association also put advertisements in the newspapers. Intervention was made for the doctor, among other cases, by Deputies Perette and Roldo and by Senator Allende, in the Argentine Congress. Also, with the Tucuman Bishop Conrero and the Accion Catolica Argentina. But all this was to no effect. Through friends, information was sought through the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs, but also to no avail. Information about the disappearance also was registered with the International Red Cross in Argentina. Registration also was made with Amnesty International, through a friend in Geneva.

All the above action was taken late 1975 and early 1976, prior to the coming to power in March, 1976 of the present government. The relatives have taken no action to date with the present government, having been counseled by lawyers and others whom they consulted that this might be dangerous for Dr. Jaroslavsky; though on what basis this advice was given is not clear.

Bits of information reaching the family about the doctor since his disappearance have been:

---About three months after the disappearance, some low level

*Federal Identity N: 4.604.933

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafield, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

military people told relatives that they had seen the doctor and that he was well, but that they were not permitted to inform them where he was located.

---About half a year after the disappearance, and about the time when General Vilas was transferred to another post and replaced by General Domingo Bussi. In an interview with Bussi himself, General Vilas denied any knowledge of Dr. Jaroslavsky. Shortly thereafter, however, someone close to his entourage inquired and was told that he was well, and soon would be liberated.

---At about this same time, too. General Vilas, in his new post in the South, spoke with a person who had been arrested there a few days and who had worked with doctors; and the General was asked whether this person knew a Dr. Jaroslavsky being held by the military. The word of this question got back to the doctor's relatives.

--- Word was indirectly received by the relatives in May 1977 that the doctor had been seen in January 1977 in a camp in the town of Familla about 40 kilometers from Tucuman.

---This month, January 1978, a sister-in-law of the doctor living in France (Anita Larrea de Jaroslavsky, widow of another son, Mrs. Gerchunoff) received a letter from a friend of an Argentine refugee doctor now in Venezuela, which refugee doctor has said he had seen Dr. Jaroslavsky in a military camp. Dr. Jaroslavsky's family now is seeking further information as to when and where he was. Mrs. Gerchunoff says that her son was not engaged in any political activity whatsoever while in Tucuman, where he lived from 1965 onward. In the University at La Plata he was active in student movements. Dr. Jaroslavsky's wife has not been disturbed in any way in her home or her profession (she is a dentist) since her husband's disappearance. In April 1976, Mrs. Anita Larrea de Jaroslavsky, then living in Buenos Aires with one son, was picked up at Mrs. Gerchunoff's apartment and sequestered for about 15 days, then released; then given protection by the French Embassy (she is a French citizen) in Argentina until she was able to replace the identity papers stolen from her and leave for France.

Amnesty International has submitted Dr. Jaroslavsky's name to the Human Rights Commission; and also to the Argentine authorities in a list of persons about whom it is seeking information; and may make him an adopted case. The doctor's name is not on the list submitted by Mr. Cyrus Vance to the Argentine government according to Mrs. Gerchunoff.

Mrs. Gerchunoff's present plans are based on the belief that some time has come to make all possible representation, intervention and publicity concerning her son.